

Preliminary Damage Assessment Report

New Jersey – Severe Storms and Flooding Denial

Denied on October 1, 2018

On August 30, 2018, Governor Philip D. Murphy requested a major disaster declaration due to severe storms and flooding during the period August 11-13, 2018. The Governor requested Individual Assistance for five counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide. During the period of August 23-24, 2018, joint federal, state, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested areas and are summarized below. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.

On October 1, 2018, Governor Murphy's request for a major disaster declaration was denied based on the determination that the damage was not of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond that capabilities of the state, affected local governments, and voluntary agencies.¹

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:² 800
 - Destroyed - 0
 - Major Damage - 66
 - Minor Damage - 325
 - Affected - 409
- Percentage of insured residences:³ 2.0%
- Percentage of low income households:⁴ 13.0%
- Percentage of ownership households:⁵ 64.0%
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: \$3,405,802

Public Assistance – (Not requested)

- Primary Impact: -
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: -
- Statewide per capita impact:⁶ -
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:⁷ \$1.46
- Countywide per capita impact: -

- Countywide per capita impact indicator:⁸ \$3.68

¹ When a Governor's request for major disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) is under review, a number of primary factors are considered to determine whether assistance is warranted. These factors are outlined in FEMA's regulations (44 CFR § 206.48). The President has ultimate discretion and decision making authority to declare major disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5170 and § 5191).

² Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

³ By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage. 42 U.S.C. § 5155 and 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(5).

⁴ Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

⁵ Ibid. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

⁶ Based on State population in the 2010 Census.

⁷ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY19, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2018.

⁸ Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY19, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2018.